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BIBLE
SOCIETY

Record



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"... And thy years shall not fail." Hebrews 1:12

A Great Beginning

BY THE REV. DR. KARL QUIMBY

A.B.S. Public Relations Assistant

THE fascinating story of Bible distribution in this country began 155 years ago from the famous "haystack prayer meeting" at Williams College, where five men dedicated themselves to be missionaries. In a sense, they inaugurated the modern missionary movement. Due to their zeal missionary service became attractive to aggressive, ambitious young men. Those asking to go abroad outnumbered those the Board could train and send. Therefore many remained in this country to bring the Gospel to the pioneers who were pouring across the Alleghenies and the Appalachians into the valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi.

Questions arose: How did frontier life affect the people's morals? Had they taken their religion with them? One thing was clear—they needed the Word of God. Reports indicated that Bibles and Testaments were rare, and churches were few. Wide areas seldom saw a preacher. All manner of vice went unrebuked. Parents were worrying because their children were growing up in an atmosphere of irreligion.

Samuel John Mills, the leader of the "haystack" group resolved to meet the situation. This young man believed that, if the Scriptures were readily available, the moral level of whole communities would be lifted. After consultation he set out on horseback on July 3, 1812 on a memorable missionary pilgrimage. He became a missionary to the American West. In Ohio he was joined by the Rev. John F. Schermerhorn

and these two missionaries brought the Word of God to hundreds not familiar with its teachings.

At Nashville they met General Andrew Jackson, who, with 1,500 volunteers, was about to embark down the Mississippi for what was to be the battle of New Orleans. General Jackson took a liking to the two men and invited them to go along. Not only did they provide Scriptures for the soldiers, but at every place where the boat anchored they went among the townspeople, distributed Scriptures and organized Bible Societies.

Along the entire thousand-mile route these men found a distressing lack of interest in religion. Education and Sabbath observance were virtually non-existent. At New Orleans conditions were even worse. A Catholic leader doubted there were a dozen Bibles in the whole city. The Governor of Louisiana territory became interested. He was painfully aware of the shortage of Bibles, because his own inauguration had been held up while embarrassed friends searched the city for a Bible with which to administer the oath of office.

These men reported 76,000 families in the Southwest of that day without Scriptures of any kind. Half a million Bibles, Mills estimated, were needed to supply the Gospel to the destitute of the United States. The disclosure of

President James P. Baxter III
of Williams College at the Haystack Monument plaque.



these facts created great interest. As a result a special meeting was held on the second Wednesday of May 1816 in the Garden Street Dutch Reformed Church on Exchange Place, New York City, on which occasion the American Bible Society was organized.

In American society today there are many areas in which Scriptures are scarce and greatly needed. For example, the thousands in our hospitals and jails, the numerous migrants who harvest our crops, the Indians who are much neglected, people in new communities and trailer camps—among these large groups the supply of Scriptures is far below what is actually needed. To provide for the distribution of Bibles in adequate amounts among all these people is the primary work and purpose of the American Bible Society.

OUR COVER

"Tomorrow..."

Our cover picture, by Blaise Levai, reminds us of our responsibility to give young lives the inner strength to face the future. How this child lives his tomorrows will depend on the part the Bible plays in his life.



Bible Society Record

ONE OF AMERICA'S OLDEST RELIGIOUS JOURNALS, DEDICATED TO THE WIDER DISTRIBUTION
AND USE OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES, PUBLISHED CONTINUOUSLY SINCE 1818,
SERVING MORE THAN 700,000 FAMILIES

VOLUME 106

JANUARY 1961

NUMBER 1

Editorial

THE MOST VALUABLE POSSESSION

By the Rev. Dr. Laton
E. Holmgren

At the turn of the year most business firms take stock of their possessions. It is a practice that we all should adopt, both men and nations. If asked at the beginning of this New Year to name your most valuable possession, what would it be?

At the coronation of a British sovereign a copy of Holy Scripture is presented to the monarch with these words, "To keep your Majesty ever mindful of the Law and the Gospel of God as the rule for the whole life and government of Christian Princes, we present you with this Book, *the most valuable thing that this world affords*. Here is Wisdom; this is the Royal Law; these are the lively Oracles of God."

The most valuable thing that this world affords! Is this merely beautiful English, noble sentiment, extravagant claim? Or is it, in fact, sober truth?

We all know the Bible is immensely popular—it is the world's best seller. Last year the various members of the United Bible Societies distributed more than 29,500,000 copies of Scripture. To this figure must be added the undisclosed circulation from all the great commercial publishing houses.

We also know that the Bible is amazingly *enduring*. It is the world's oldest book in common use. No one knows when its first lines were written, but it must have been at least 1,000 years before Christ. Until the invention of printing there were not many copies available, and yet it had survived the efforts of men before and since to discredit and destroy it. It speaks to today's world as if it were published this morning.

Do we know why the Bible is so *valuable*? It is so valuable because it gives us the only sufficient picture of God we have.

All other attempts to describe the nature and character of God are partial and undependable. Only from the Bible do we see God as He really is—very near to each one of us—"the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary . . . He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength . . . they that wait upon the Lord shall

renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." The Bible is our most valuable possession because it enables us to know God, who oversees everything and overlooks nothing.

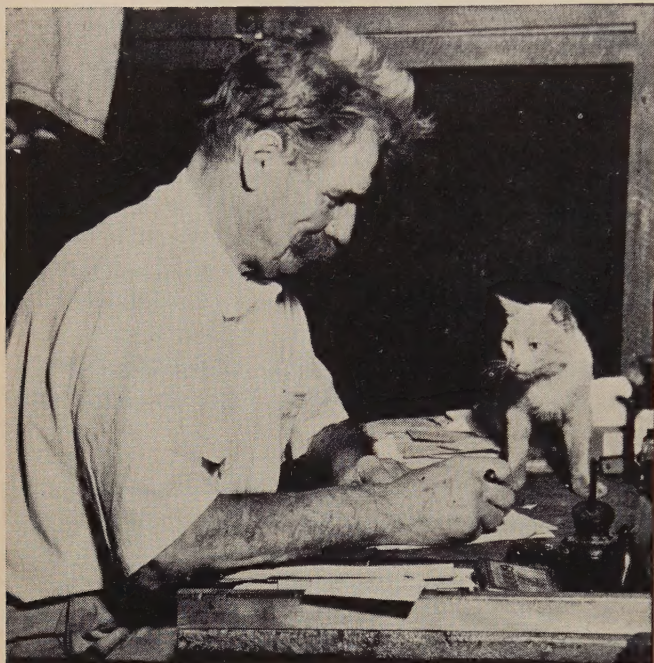
It also gives us the only sufficient picture of man which we possess. In the Bible we see man as he really is, a sinner—"all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"—but meant to be a saint—for "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." The Bible is a record of changed lives: Jacob, the scheming youth, becomes the mellowed patriarch; Moses, the hot-tempered slayer of his enemy, becomes the understanding leader of his people; Peter, the unstable weakling, becomes the bold herald of the new Gospel; and Paul, the hateful persecutor of good men, becomes the author of the most powerful description of love in human speech.

The Bible is also our most valuable possession because it gives us the only hopeful picture of the world in which we live. From the Bible we learn that God is concerned about the affairs of men—"Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"—and that we are responsible for the destinies of men—"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." The Bible enables us to envision a repentant world both judged for its evil and justified by its Saviour.

As we move across the threshold of this New Year, the American Bible Society reminds you of this Book, *the most valuable possession that this world affords*.

HOW WE READ THE BIBLE

in the



Dr. Schweitzer celebrates his 86th birthday on January 14.

I PREACH every Sunday morning at my mission in Lambaréné, French Equatorial Africa. To a Christian in a civilized community the sermon might seem a bit strange.

Many of my congregation know absolutely nothing about Christianity. They are transient workers from far inland. Soon they will return home to buy a woman and get married. If they carry some of the Gospel of Christ home with them, I have planted a seed.

Slowly my patients and their companions appear, sitting between barracks and mountain slope under the shady roofs. I play on a portable harmonium. The congregation cannot sing, since it consists almost exclusively of tribesmen speaking six dialects.

Two interpreters repeat my sentences. I do not require that my listeners sit quietly. They build fires and cook their meals, wash and comb their children, mend their fishing nets. A reprimand at this time would break the solemnity of the occasion. The Word of God is being passed on to people hearing it mostly for the first time.

I must be simple in my sermons. My audience knows nothing of Adam and Eve, the Patriarchs, the Prophets, the Messiah or the Apostles. I allow the Word to speak to them timelessly. When I use the word "Messiah," I explain it as "King of hearts, whom God has sent." Above all I try to avoid the

temptation common to those who preach to tribesmen—to "preach the Law." It is difficult not to cite the Ten Commandments and thus prepare people for the Gospel to whom lying, stealing and immorality are second nature.

I strive to awaken a longing for peace with God. When I speak of the difference between the restless and the peaceful heart, the wildest of my hearers knows what is meant. And when I portray Jesus as He who brings peace with God, they comprehend.

To be understood I must speak concretely. Thus, for example, Peter's question to Jesus whether it is sufficient to forgive seven-fold cannot be left so general. I must make it clear through illustrations from their lives. Recently I told them:

"You have just got up, when someone comes who is known to be bad. He insults you. Because Jesus says that one shall forgive, you are silent.

"Later, the neighbor's goat eats your lunch of bananas. Instead of starting a fight, you simply say that it was his goat, and that it would be right for him to replace the bananas. But if he objects, you leave quietly, thinking how God causes so many bananas to grow on your farm that you have no need to start trouble because of these few.

"Later, a man who took your ten bushels of bananas to market to sell along with his own gives you money for only nine of them. He says you gave him only nine bushels. You are ready to shout in his face that he is a liar. You must think, however, how many lies that you alone know about of which God must forgive, and you go quietly into your hut.



ungle . . . BY DR. ALBERT SCHWEITZER

"As you make a fire, you notice that someone has taken some of the wood you brought from the forest yesterday. Again you force your heart to forgiveness and refrain from finding the thief and turning him in to the chief.

"In the afternoon you are about to leave for work on the farm, when you discover that someone has taken your good bush knife and left in its place an old jagged knife you recognize. Then you think, you've forgiven four times and can do it a fifth. Although it was a day in which many unpleasant things happened, you feel as happy as if it were one of the smoothest. Why? because your heart is joyous for having obeyed the will of Jesus.

"In the evening you want to go fishing. You find your torch gone. Anger overcomes you, and you think

you've forgiven enough today. But once again the Lord Jesus becomes Master of your heart. With a torch that you borrow you go down to the river bank.

"There you discover that your boat is missing. Someone has gone fishing in it. Angry, you hide behind a tree and plan to take away all the intruder's fish when he comes back and turn him in to the district captain. But as you wait, your heart begins to speak. Over and over is repeated the word of Jesus that God cannot forgive us our sins if we do not forgive our fellow man. Jesus again becomes Master over you. When at dusk the man finally returns, you step from behind a tree; you say to him that the Lord Jesus forces you to let him go in peace. You don't even demand the fish, but I believe he will give them to you in sheer amazement that you did not start a fight.

"Now you go home, happy and proud that you have managed to forgive seven times. But if on that very day the Lord Jesus came to your village and you stepped before Him, thinking He would praise you, then He would say to you, as He did to Peter, that sevenfold is not enough; that you must forgive sevenfold again and again and again, and many times more, until God can forgive you your many sins."

I see in the faces of my congregation how moved they are. Often I stop to ask them whether their hearts are in agreement with what is said. They are prone to answer in a loud chorus that it is right as I have said it.

At the end of the sermon I have them fold their hands, then I recite very slowly a short, unprepared prayer. For a long time after the "Amen" heads are bowed over hands. As the soft music begins again, they straighten up. All remain motionless until the last tone has died away. As I take my leave, my people begin to arise. They leave with the living Word of God. . .



EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Laton E. Holmgren (left) and M. Olivier Béguin, General Secretary of the United Bible Societies, examine the latest American Bible Society World Missions Map.



DR. Gerald O. McCulloh of the Theology Department of the Board of Education of The Methodist Church in Nashville stops at the Bible House with Methodist scholarship students as they visit religious agencies in New York.



SECRETARY T. Newton Wise (left) shows Mr. R. A. Perkin, Passenger Agent, and A.B.S. Bible. Copies will be placed in the lounge cars of the railroad's streamliners.

MR. Ray Middleton, well-known actor-singer of stage and television, is assisted by Mr. Archie Pipe, Supervisor of the A.B.S. Radio and Television Department, in recording the November Daily Bible Readings. More than 300 radio stations carried these Scripture passages.



AROUND THE NATION WITH THE BIBLE SOCIETY



OFFICER Candidate John E. Thiesing of Fanwood, New Jersey (left) receives an A.B.S. Bible from Chaplain Ross H. Trower, a Lutheran pastor of St. Louis, Missouri. Looking on is Hospitalman First Class James L. Myrah of Verona, North Dakota.



LLEFT to right: Executive Secretary Robert T. Taylor; the Rev. Dr. Jesse W. Stitt, A.B.S.'s quizmaster on "The Living Bible" quiz program, and Mr. James V. B. Sullivan, vice president and general manager of radio station WNEW, New York, examine the plaque presented by the Society in appreciation of Dr. Stitt's continued service to the community on one of the oldest quiz shows on the air.



FOR the month of December the Bible Readings were recorded by Mr. Ronald Reagan, highly regarded television personality. The Rev. Dean S. Collins, A.B.S. Regional Executive Secretary, Pacific Region, and Mr. John Groller, Associate Director, Radio-Television Department, United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., discuss the readings during an intermission.

the American Bible Society...

in the land of the Aztec eagle



By the Rev. Dr. Samuel F. Nelson

Director, Latin American Training School

THE young man waited uncertainly after the service in the small Methodist church in Mexico City, undecided as to whether he should follow his impulse to flight. As he looked about, nervously fingering a small booklet, the decision was lost to him, for the minister approached and extended his hand in welcome. The young man handed him the little booklet as though it were a passport into a new land, saying, "I have been wanting to know more about this booklet, which was given me during the Christmas season when some of your people were calling in my neighborhood." The pastor glanced at the crumpled Spanish Portion of Luke containing the story of the birth of the Saviour.

"Won't you sit down a few minutes, young man, and let me tell you about it?" With these words the pastor began a simple explanation of the Christian faith as centered in the birth of a Child.

The American Bible Society in Mexico began distribution of the Holy Scriptures in the land of Montezuma one hundred and thirty-six years ago. In 1824, just three years after Mexico won her independence from Spain and only eight years after the founding of the American Bible Society, the Rev. John C. Brigham, a Congregational minister, was named Agent of the Society for distribution of the Word of God in that republic. The British and Foreign Bible Society and the American Bible Society continued to distribute the Scriptures together in Mexico until 1878, when the present office of the American Bible Society was established. "Gante, number 5," the location of the Bible Society office since 1927, is the most familiar Protestant address in Mexico. From "Gante, number 5" an uninterrupted stream of Scriptures in Spanish and many other languages has gone forth in ever-increasing numbers, last year's total being 377,534 volumes. The present Secretary of the Society, the Rev. Daniel López de Lara, is developing a dynamic program which will make the Word of God more widely read and believed. Since the Protestant churches have become numerous and strong in Mexico—there are more than two hundred in the capital alone—the Bible Society has begun to provide new, profes-

sional help in community distribution with evangelistic purpose, for which two men from the American Bible Society's Penzotti Institute in Mexico City are actively engaged in training and organizing laymen.

The Bible Society has been interested also in the three million people in Mexico who speak languages other than Spanish. A full-time translations specialist, Dr. William A. Wonderly, stationed in Mexico by the Bible Society, gives expert counsel to the missionary translators of Indian languages. To date the Bible Society has published Scriptures in forty-one Indian languages and dialects of Mexico. Complete New Testaments have been published in Chol, Maya, Mazateco, Tzeltal and Totonaco.

The Rev. John Beekman of the Wycliffe Bible Translators, a member of the Reformed Church in America, has distinguished himself by outstanding work on the Chol translation, which occupied him and his committee associates almost ten years.

Illiteracy is a serious problem in Mexico, but those who cannot read are not forgotten. Scriptures on recordings in Spanish and in some of the Indian tongues are supplied, together with the Finger-fono—a simple, hand-turned phonograph which speaks the Word of God to those for whom the printed page is as yet an unsolved mystery. And for those beginning to read, Scriptures in a simplified Spanish text make the inspired Word comprehensible. The blind also are within the sphere of the Society's concern; Scriptures on phonograph records and in Braille are made available to those who never see the light of the sun. It has been the policy of the Bible Societies since their founding to make the Scriptures available in the best possible translations at the lowest possible price to those able and willing to pay.

The churches are aided in their missionary endeavors by being offered Scriptures at a discount below the cost of

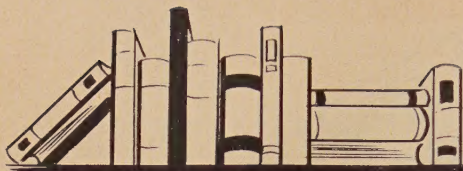


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production. In addition, millions of copies of the Holy Scriptures have been distributed free under the proper circumstances. Countless thousands of the poor, the prisoners and those serving their country in the armed forces, not to mention schools and libraries, have received free copies of the Word of God. Also, every new President of Mexico upon entering office receives an inscribed copy of the Bible in a formal presentation ceremony. Many other prominent government officials have also been presented

with copies of the Holy Scriptures.

The American Bible Society is beginning this year, its one hundred and thirty-sixth year of service in Mexico, the construction of a large Bible House in the downtown district of the capital. The building will serve as a symbol of the strength and permanency of Protestant Christianity in Mexico and as the source of an unfailing supply of the Holy Scriptures, "that the Word of the Lord may speed on and triumph."



Book Review

"SOLDIERS OF THE WORD" By John M. Gibson, *Philosophical Library, Inc., 15 East 40th Street, New York, N. Y.*

Reviewed by Dr. Eric M. North, A.B.S. Consultant

UNDER this title John M. Gibson, who writes for the joy of writing about worth-while people and things, has written a most exciting book. Normally, institutional histories are almost deadly, but Mr. Gibson has taken the American Bible Society as his subject and has come out with a fascinating narrative. To be sure, there is much in the way of information and data which a formal or official history would add. But it would not be nearly so readable and would be less likely to convey so well the spirit and life that drove the Society forward through such long years and so many vicissitudes.

The book opens rightly with an account of Samuel J. Mills, that pioneer missionary spirit who in a real sense started American missions on their great adventure. His journeys into the opening American West in 1812 and 1814 revealed the "Biblical destitution" of the new settlements. His older friend, Elias Boudinot, stirred by Mills' reports, became the founder of the Society. The account of these early days is vividly full of glimpses into the personalities who took part. Then follow the struggles of the young Society to get under way, to secure funds and printing plates and books and eventually a building. Auxiliary Bible Societies had to be guided and kept active.

Seven great periods of special effort are concisely but illuminatingly set forth: the four periods of "General Supply" in 1829, 1856, 1866 and 1882, when the Society sought to reach every Bibleless home in the country; and the three major wars, the Civil War and World Wars I and II. Though treated in less detail, the Society's work in the Near East, Europe, Latin America and Asia is also recognized, together with its special services to special groups. On the whole, the heart of Mr. Gibson's interest is in the first hundred years. The treatment for the period from 1916 to the end of the Korean War, with which the book ends, is less adequate. It may be well that this is so, for the earlier history, for all its dramatic quality, is too easily overlooked.

Mr. Gibson is happily aware that the reader's interest will be in people. Thus almost every page has some interesting account of personal experiences, whether of the Board and its Presidents, of colporteurs in America and abroad, or of those to whom the Book has been brought, sometimes to be refused with hostility or at others to be received with life-transforming effect. Mr. Gibson's book will be gratefully received as a forerunner of the literature of the Society's 150th anniversary only a few years hence.

The Advisory Council, 1960



The Advisory Council and guests assembled in New York on November 15, 1960. Fifty-three denominations were represented. Read the Council's full report in the February issue.

PASTOR USES GOSPEL PORTIONS IN PEWS

By the Rev. Dr. Winfield Burggraaff

Pastor of the Huguenot and Princess Bay Reformed Churches, Staten Island, New York

THE Acts of the Apostles appealed to me as an excellent book from which to preach. Phillips, in his translation of this book, published first as "The Young Church in Action," suggests "the reader is stirred because he is seeing Christianity, the real thing, in action for the first time in human history." I wanted my congregation to catch something of the thrill of observing the early church at first hand.

We have no Bibles in the pews, and very few of my people bring their Bibles with them to church. But I wanted them to see certain words and verses and names with their own eyes. I wanted them to follow the reading of the chapters and check on the references. The solution of the problem was to secure copies of The Acts from the American Bible Society and have them placed in the pews. Then I ordered 300 copies and purchased a 9x12 flannelgraph with a good supply of letters and numerals.

Each Sunday morning I post the chapter of Acts for the day's study on this flannelgraph and place it where everyone in the congregation can see it. Those who come early use the minutes before service to read the day's lesson.

Most people take most things for granted. The question was, would this be true of small copies of Acts in bookracks? Thus, it is gratifying for me as its pastor to see the entire congregation reading and following with interest (and profit, I trust) this study of The Acts of the Apostles.



NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL AMERICA AGENCY

THE American Bible Society has named the Rev. Reginald H. Wheatley as its Executive Secretary for the Central America Agency. Mr. Wheatley, thirty-two, was born in Onancock, Virginia. In 1950 he received a B.A. degree from Lycoming College, Williamsport, Pennsylvania and a 1956 S.T.B. from Westminster Theological Seminary in Maryland. From 1950 to 1953 Mr. Wheatley served as special-term missionary of The Methodist Church in Bolivia. Upon returning to the States he served as minister of Methodist churches in Maryland.

In 1956 he was commissioned a missionary and assigned to serve in Panama. Mr. Wheatley is married and has three children.



Dr. Eugene A. Nida, left, shows Secretary Reginald H. Wheatley a Reina-Valera Revised Spanish Bible.

a page for children

It is thirty years ago.

On the rocky road to Tibet from Simla stands a commanding figure in the yellow robe of a holy man.

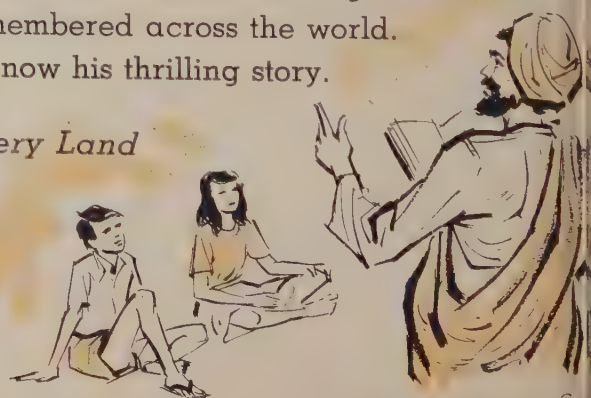
Watching a gang of Tibetan coolies, Sundar Singh remembers that eventful day when his younger brothers came home from their mission school, full of excitement at the stories of Jesus they had been reading in their Bible. Full of rage, and snatching his brothers' Bible, he ripped it to pieces, scattering pages around and stuffing some into a little charcoal brazier burning for the evening meal.

For three days after this Sundar Singh locked himself into the silence of his little room, where suddenly there came to him a glorious vision of Jesus, filling him with the certainty that Jesus was his Master. Sundar left his home and went to the Christians, where he became a Christian *sadhu* to serve God in poverty. For years he served his Lord all over India and by journeying to Europe and America, strong in the knowledge that Christ was with him.

Now we see him Bible in hand, heading for a new country—Tibet—with its unknown dangers.

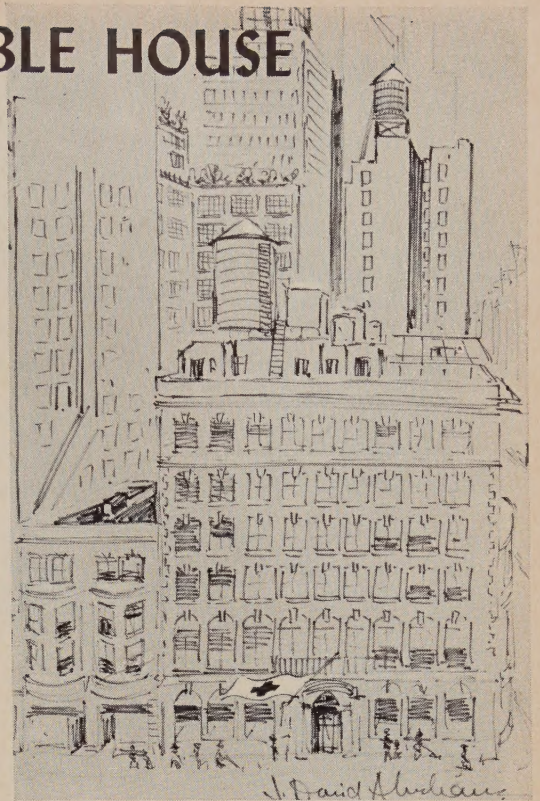
Sundar Singh has never been heard of again. His great faith in and love for Jesus are still remembered across the world. Every Christian child should know his thrilling story.

From *For Every Land*



VISITORS TO THE BIBLE HOUSE

FROM ENGLAND: Sir Arthur Dixon, C.B., C.B.E., talks with the Rev. Dr. Laton E. Holmgren (right), Executive Secretary of the American Bible Society. Sir Arthur is now Vice President of the British and Foreign Bible Society.



FROM THE NETHERLANDS: Mr. John Kijne, Secretary for Translations of the Netherlands Bible Society (right), discusses new translations with Miss Alice E. Ball, A.B.S. Assistant Secretary in the Overseas Department, and Dr. William A. Smalley of the A.B.S. Translations Department.



FROM NORWAY: Dr. Age Holter (right), Secretary for Translations of the Norwegian Bible Society, and Mr. Charles W. Baas, A.B.S. Treasurer, listen attentively to a report presented at the Overseas Distribution Committee meetings.



FROM THE CONGO: The Rev. Anders W. Marthinson, Secretary of the Bible Societies in the Congo, shared his Congo experiences at the weekly devotional Bible House staff meeting. Mr. Marthinson was in New York for consultation with the Society's Officers.



FROM SCOTLAND: The Rev. Dr. John W. Decker (left), Chairman of the Overseas Distribution Committee and member of the Board of Managers, welcomes Dr. James Alexander to Bible House. Dr. Alexander is a former missionary to East Africa and now is the General Secretary of the National Bible Society of Scotland.

Bible Society Record

Published Continuously Since 1818

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution and Use of the Holy Scriptures

The American Bible Society is the missionary agency of your church for translating, publishing, distributing and encouraging the use of the Holy Scriptures around the world.

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Vol. 106 JANUARY 1961 No. 1

Important Announcements



United Church Women hold 75th anniversary of World Day of Prayer

The American Bible Society has supplied 250,000 Gospel Portions to be used in the seventy-fifth anniversary of the World Day of Prayer, February 17, 1961. Millions of Protestant church women from 145 countries will observe this day from sunup to sundown. Under the general theme "Forward through the Ages" prayer fellowships will use Bibles and a study guide prepared by the Rev. Dr. J. Carter Swain, Director of the National Council's Department of English Bible.

INTRODUCING
NEW FILMSTRIP
TO BE READY FEBRUARY 1

Bring Bible History to Life

Order the Bible Society's new four-part, full-color filmstrip "How Our Bible Came to Us."

These helpful slides (not available for rent), with 33 1/3 rpm record, script and teacher's guide, cost only \$15 or \$12 without the record.

For greater teaching effectiveness, these slides are excellent for Sunday schools and churches.

Write today: American Bible Society, 440 Park Avenue South, New York 16, N.Y.



Because of limited space we print here only one of many letters received recently. To the writers of letters not printed, our grateful thanks.

"I am enclosing a check to help in the distribution of the Holy Bible. It is the last money, \$18.20, my husband, the Rev. S.S. Van Wagner, had on his person from the last Bibles he sold. He was ill for the last six months and has gone to his Saviour, whom he loved and served till the day he died.

"On that day, too, he prayed for the American Bible Society, as was his habit.

"May the Lord bless you all in the distribution of the Bible. Please send me the *Record* always.

"Sincerely,
Mrs. S.S. Van Wagner,
San Diego 11, Calif."



Meetings

October Meeting of the Board

A meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society was held at the Bible House, 450 Park Avenue, New York, on Thursday, October 6, 1960, at 3:30 p.m., President Daniel Burke in the Chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. Claude E. Leavers.

Mr. Charles S. Thomas was elected a Vice President of the Society.

The following Portions were approved for publication:

the text of the Epistle of Galatians in Popular French;

the Gospel of Mark in the Tetelcingo dialect of Aztec;

the Acts in the Ojitlan dialect of Chinanteco;

the General Epistles (James through Jude) in Chontal of Tabasco;

the Gospel of John in Huichol;

the Gospel of Mark in the Northern dialect of Mixe;

the Epistles of James and 1, 2, and 3 John in the Sayula dialect of Popoluca;

the Gospel of Mark in Ixil; and

The Acts in Mam of Huehuetenango.

It was voted that the revised translation of Exodus in Thai be approved for publication.

It was reported that a total of 10,966,722 volumes were issued from the Bible House during the first eight months of 1960.



In the February issue be sure to read Dr. Leslie C. Sayre's article, "Unlocking the Bible."

Daily Bible Readings

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God

—St. John 1:1

JANUARY

Day	Book	Chapter
1	John	1:1-28
2	John	1:29-51
3	I John	1:1-10
4	I John	2:1-17
5	I John	2:18-29
6	I John	3:1-24
7	John	2:1-25
8	I John	4:1-21
9	Exodus	25:1-22
10	Numbers	13:25-14:12
11	Numbers	14:13-25
12	Deuteronomy	5:1-21
13	John	3:1-21
14	John	3:22-36
15	Luke	19:1-10
16	Deuteronomy	8:1-20
17	Deuteronomy	31:1-15
18	Joshua	1:1-18
19	Joshua	3:1-17
20	John	4:1-30
21	John	4:31-5:1
22	Joshua	4:1-24
23	Joshua	6:1-21
24	Judges	2:6-23
25	I Samuel	1:1-28
26	I Samuel	3:1-21
27	John	5:2-24
28	John	5:25-47
29	Ruth	1:1-22
30	Ruth	2:1-23
31	Ruth	3:1-18

A list of Daily Readings for the entire year may be obtained by writing to the Publicity Department, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.

FROM OUR PRAYER CALENDAR*

The Prayer for January:

Africa—Pray that the present wide opportunities for spreading the Gospel may continue in this turbulent part of the world.

**Won't you and your family join us in praying for the advancement of His Word? Send for your free copy of Our Prayer Calendar.*

JANUARY 1961

Memorialize the Name of a Loved One . . .

MEMORIAL GIFTS to the American Bible Society in amounts of \$10 or more will be recorded in a beautiful red leather-bound Book of Remembrance, prominently displayed on a memorial desk on the first floor of the Bible House in New York.

The specially prepared book and desk are the gifts of a generous friend of the Society in the State of Michigan.

This memorial book will record the donor's name and the name of the loved one who is memorialized. If desired, a special designation for the use of the gift may be entered as part of the memorial statement in the book. Gifts of fifty dollars or

more will be announced in the *Bible Society Record*.

An *In Memoriam* card bearing the names of the memorialized and the donor is sent at once to the bereaved family. The gift is consecrated to the ministry of providing the Scriptures in many languages to all mankind.

The Society furnishes special memorial gift forms, gladly sent upon request. Friends of the Society are invited to write for these forms so that they will be available when a loved one or friend is called to be with his Lord. Requests may be directed to the Rev. A. Paul Wright, American Bible Society, 440 Park Avenue South, New York 16, New York.

Shiftuh! I have seen Him

By the Rev. Don R. MacNeill
Kuwait, Persian Gulf

A dark, picturesque covered bazaar in a city in the Arab East is the scene. The characters—a group of men gathered together in front of a store window. Gazing intently at a picture which seems nothing but a blur of ink spots splattered over a green sheet, one of the men exclaims, “*Shiftuh! I have seen Him!*”

The casual observer of such a scene is likely to ask, “What are they talking about?” The answer lies in the subject of the picture. For hidden among the ink spots is a Christ-face, the subject of the search and the conversation.

Beside and beyond the picture are Bibles and Gospel Portions. And the sign in the window reads: “For you to see the face of Christ is our hope!” Passers-by are mainly business men or local merchants or schoolboys. They enter the bazaar and come out with a correspondence course on the life of Christ, or perhaps a Christian book or magazine. Whatever the medium, each helps to bring Christ into sharper focus.

Putting Christ into the center of life, even in the shadowed lanes of covered bazaars, is the



compelling task of Scripture distribution in the Arab world. For bookshops in the Arabian Gulf area are not the display centers often found elsewhere. The furniture may consist of a few chairs, a table and perhaps a display rack. More people come to talk and to drink coffee than to purchase. Yet the evangelists continue to try to draw men inside so that they may go away possessing.

With each book, each magazine, each pamphlet goes the hope that in the reading, or even in the mere leafing through, there may come that moment when a man or woman will cry out, “*Shiftuh! I have seen Him!*”

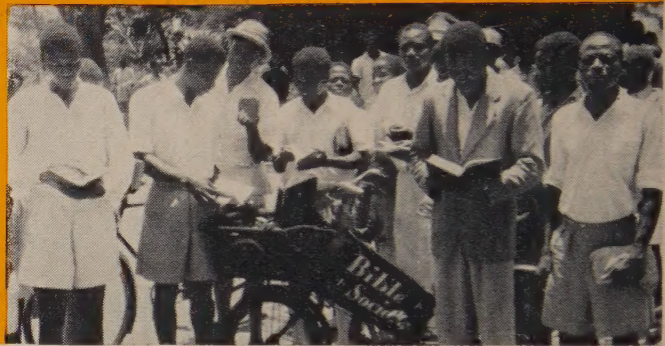


A woman likes
to invest where
her money is
"bread cast upon
the waters"

*That's why an American
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You get great personal satisfaction from helping the American Bible Society Annuity Agreement Plan provide the Word of God to all mankind (now in more than 1100 languages). In return you receive great **SECURITY, MORE INCOME, FREEDOM FROM MONEY WORRY** and many other advantages which make this plan one of your finest investments, even from a purely business point of view.

- 1 You get an **immediate income**, not deferred as with conventional types of annuities.
- 2 You get **more income** than you usually get from bonds and other gilt-edge securities.
- 3 You get a **regular income guaranteed for life** and, if desired, for the life of a survivor as well.



- 4 You **reduce your income tax** two ways: (a) by taking a substantial gift reduction the first year and (b) because your annuity income is **largely tax free**.
- 5 You **save** all investment expenses, commissions, counsel fees, worry.
- 6 You can make **periodic purchases**.
- 7 You **receive** the Bible Society Record 10 times a year.
- 8 You may even enjoy **longer life**—insurance statistics show annuitants usually live longer!

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